



## Nearly two-thirds of Democrats want Biden to withdraw, new AP-NORC poll finds



President Joe Biden speaks at a 2024 Prosperity Summit, July 16, 2024, in North Las Vegas, Nev.

Associated Press

By DARLENE SUPERVILLE, AMELIA THOMSON-DEVEAUX and EMILY SWANSON

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Nearly two-thirds of Democrats say President Joe Biden should withdraw from the presidential race and let his party

nominate a different candidate, according to a new poll, sharply undercutting his post-debate claim that "average Democrats" are still with him even if some "big names" are turning on him. The new survey by the AP-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research, conducted as Biden works

to salvage his candidacy two weeks after his debate flop, also found that only about 3 in 10 Democrats are extremely or very confident that he has the mental capability to serve effectively as president, down slightly from 40% in an AP-NORC poll in February. The findings underscore the

challenges the 81-year-old president faces as he tries to silence calls from within his own party to leave the race and tries to convince Democrats that he's the best candidate to defeat Donald Trump.

Continued on Page 2

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# Nearly two-thirds of Democrats want Biden to withdraw, new AP-NORC poll finds

Continued from Front

The poll was conducted mostly before Saturday's assassination attempt on Trump at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania. It's unclear whether the shooting influenced people's views of Biden, but the small number of poll interviews completed after the shooting provided no early indication that his prospects improved. Meanwhile, as Vice President Kamala Harris receives additional scrutiny amid the talk about whether Biden should bow out, the poll found that her favorability rating is similar to his — but the share of Americans who have an unfavorable opinion of her is slightly lower. The poll provides some evi-



President Joe Biden speaks from the Roosevelt Room of the White House in Washington, Sunday, July 14, 2024, about the apparent assassination attempt of former President Donald Trump at a campaign rally in Pennsylvania, as Vice President Kamala Harris listens.

Associated Press

dence that Black Democrats are among Biden's strongest supporters, with roughly half in the survey saying he should continue running, compared to about 3 in 10 white and

Hispanic Democrats. Overall, seven in 10 Americans think Biden should drop out, with Democrats only slightly less likely than Republicans and independents to say that he should make way for a new nominee.

I do have genuine concerns about his ability to hold the office," said Democrat Andrew Holcomb, 27, of Denver. "I think he's frankly just too old for the job."

Janie Stapleton, a 50-year-old lifelong Democrat from Walls, Mississippi, held the opposite view, saying Biden is the "best candidate" for president.

People aren't just sour on Biden on as they size up their choices this election season. About 6 in 10 Americans want Trump to withdraw -- but relatively few Republicans are in that camp.

As for Biden, younger Democrats are especially likely to want to see him bow out -- and to say they're dissatisfied with him. Three-quarters of Democrats under the age of 45 want Biden to drop out, compared to about 6 in 10 of those who are older.

"I just feel like these two individuals are a sad choice," said Alexi Mitchell, 35, a civil servant who lives in Virginia. She identifies as a Democratic-leaning independent, and while she thinks Biden is probably still mentally up to the job, she worries that the past few weeks' unraveling of support makes him a weak candidate, no matter what happens next. "If he doesn't have control over his own party, that's a fatal flaw," she said. "He's put us in a bad position where Trump might win."

Despite bullish talk from the Biden campaign heading into the debate, the faceoff only left the president in a deeper hole. Democrats are slightly more likely to say they're dissatisfied with Biden as their nominee now than they were before his halting performance. About half are dissatisfied, an uptick from about 4 in 10 in an AP-NORC poll from June.

By contrast, most Republicans -- about 6 in 10 -- came out of the debate very or somewhat satisfied with Trump as their candidate.

Too few interviews were conducted after the assassination attempt to provide a clear indication of whether Republicans or Americans overall have rallied further around Trump since then.

David Parrott, a Democrat from Soddy-Daisy, Tennessee, was willing to give Biden the benefit of the doubt given the president's age, but he still voiced concerns about a potential second term.

"I don't know if he can make it another four years or not," said Parrott, a 58-year-old retiree. "Shouldn't he be sitting at his beach house taking it easy?"

All of the recent churn has left Americans much more likely to think Trump is capable of winning the 2024 election than is Biden -- 42% to 18%. About a quarter thought the two men equally capable of winning. Even Democrats are relatively dour about their party's prospects come November. Only about a third of Democrats believe Biden is more capable of winning than is Trump. About 3 in 10 think the two are equally capable of winning and 16% say victory is more likely to go to the Republican. By contrast, Republicans are overwhelmingly convinced that Trump is in the best position to win. Trump also has the edge on Biden when Americans consider who is most capable of handling a crisis, 38% to 28%. And people are about equally divided on which candidate has the better vision for the country, with 35% saying Biden and 34% Trump.

For all of the disenchantment Biden is up against, the president insists it's not too late to turn things around, saying past presidents have come back from a deficit at this stage in the campaign. In an interview Tuesday with BET News, he said many voters haven't focused yet, adding, "The point is, we're just getting down to gametime right now."

The poll did also offer a bright spot for Biden: 40% of adults say he's more honest than Trump, while about 2 in 10 think the opposite. □

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**AQUARIUS**



# Aging bridges in 16 states will be improved or replaced with the help of \$5B in federal funding

By DAVID A. LIEB  
Associated Press

Dozens of aging bridges in 16 states will be replaced or improved with the help of \$5 billion in federal grants announced Wednesday by President Joe Biden's administration, the latest beneficiaries of a massive infrastructure law.

The projects range from coast to coast, with the largest providing an additional \$1.4 billion to help replace two vertical lift bridges over the Columbia River that carry Interstate 5 traffic between Portland, Oregon, and Vancouver, Washington. The bridges, which also received \$600 million in December, are "the worst trucking bottleneck" in the region, Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said.

The new bridges will be seismically resilient and multimodal, with room for vehicles, pedestrians, bicycles and transit.

Oregon Gov. Tina Kotek described the federal funding as "fantastic news" that will aid the economy while also advancing "goals of reducing carbon emissions and curbing the effects of climate change."

Other projects receiving \$500 million or more include the Sagamore Bridge in Cape



A logging truck drives on the Interstate 5 bridge that spans the Columbia River and connects Portland, Ore., with southwest Washington state, Feb. 13, 2024.

Cod, Massachusetts; an Interstate 10 bridge project in Mobile, Alabama; and the Interstate 83 South bridge in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, which Buttigieg highlighted Wednesday with a visit.

"These bridges affect whole regions and ultimately impact the entire U.S. economy," Buttigieg said. "Their condition means they need major urgent investment to help keep people safe and

to keep our supply chains running smoothly."

The grants come from a \$1.2 trillion infrastructure law signed by Biden in 2021 that directed \$40 billion to bridges over five years—the largest dedicated bridge investment in decades. Biden has been touting the infrastructure law while campaigning for reelection against former President Donald Trump.

But even Wednesday's large

grants will make only a dent in what the American Road & Transportation Builders Association estimates to be \$319 billion of needed bridge repairs across the U.S.

About 42,400 bridges are in poor condition nationwide, yet they carry about 167 million vehicles each day, according to the federal government. Four-fifths of those bridges have problems with the substructures that hold

them up or the superstructures that support their load. And more than 15,800 of the poor bridges also were listed in poor shape a decade ago, according to an Associated Press analysis.

The nation's poor bridges are on average 70 years old.

Bridges fulfill a vital role that often goes overlooked until their closure disrupts people's commutes and delays commerce. That was tragically highlighted in March when a cargo ship crashed into a support column of the Francis Scott Key Bridge in Maryland, causing the bridge to crumple into the water and killing six road crew workers.

Maryland officials have said it could take four years and up to \$1.9 billion to rebuild the bridge. Some of the projects announced Wednesday include multiple bridges, such as a \$251 million grant to improve 15 bridges around Providence, Rhode Island.

That project is separate from one to replace the Interstate 195 Washington Bridge over the Seekonk River, which was suddenly closed to traffic late last year because of structural problems.

In Florida, Miami-Dade County will receive \$101 million to replace 11 Venetian Causeway bridges that are nearly a century old. □

Associated Press

# Army private who fled to North Korea is in talks to resolve military charges, lawyer says

By ERIC TUCKER  
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — A lawyer for an Army private who fled to North Korea and was later charged with desertion and possessing sexual images of a child said Wednesday that he was in negotiations with military prosecutors to resolve the case against his client. Army Pvt. Travis King had been scheduled for a preliminary hearing Tuesday in Fort Bliss, Texas. But the hearing was canceled to give the two sides room to negotiate a resolution, King's attorney, Franklin D. Rosenblatt, told The Associated Press.

He declined to discuss the details of the discussions or

what any deal might entail, but said a request had been made to postpone the hearing by two weeks and that the negotiations could result in no preliminary hearing being necessary.

King in July 2023 ran across the heavily fortified border from South Korea and became the first American detained in North Korea in nearly five years.

Officials said King was taken to the airport and escorted as far as customs. But instead of getting on the plane, he left and later joined a civilian tour of the Korean border village of Panmunjom. He ran across the border, which is lined with guards and often crowded with tourists, in the

afternoon. After about two months, Pyongyang abruptly announced that it would expel him. He was flown on Sept. 28 to an Air Force base in Texas. In October, he was charged with desertion and also accused of kicking and punching other officers last year, unlawfully possessing alcohol, making a false statement and possessing a video of a child engaged in sexual activity.

His mother, Claudine Gates, said in a statement at the time that she loved her son unconditionally and was extremely concerned about his mental health.

"The man I raised, the man I dropped off at boot camp, the man who spent the holi-

days with me before deploying did not drink and would never have had anything to do with child pornography,"

she said. "A mother knows her son, and I believe something happened to mine while he was deployed." □



A TV screen shows a file image of American soldier Travis King during a news program at the Seoul Railway Station in Seoul, South Korea on Aug. 16, 2023.

Associated Press



# Navy exonerates 256 Black sailors unjustly punished in 1944 after a deadly California port explosion

By TARA COPP

Associated Press

**WASHINGTON (AP)** — The U.S. Navy has exonerated 256 Black sailors who were found to be unjustly punished in 1944 following a horrific port explosion that killed hundreds of service members and exposed racist double standards among the then-segregated ranks.

On July 17, 1944, munitions being loaded onto a cargo ship detonated, causing secondary blasts that ignited 5,000 tons (4,535 metric tonnes) of explosives at Port Chicago naval weapons station near San Francisco.

The explosion killed 320 sailors and civilians, nearly 75% of whom were Black, and injured another 400 personnel. Surviving Black sailors had to pick up the human remains and clear the blast site while white officers were granted leave to recuperate.

The pier was a critical ammunition supply site for forces in the Pacific during World War II, and the job of loading those ships was left primarily to Black enlisted sailors overseen by white officers.

Before the explosion, the Black sailors working the dock had expressed concerns about the loading operations. Shortly after the blast, they were ordered to return to loading ships even though no changes had been made to improve their safety.



**Thurgood Marshall, Jr., right, smiles as he receives the first pen from Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro, Wednesday, July 17, 2024 at the Pentagon in Washington, after it was used to sign documents exonerating 256 Black sailors who were unjustly court martialed in 1944 after the horrific Port Chicago explosion in California.**

The sailors refused, saying they needed training on how to more safely handle the bombs before they returned. What followed affected the rest of their lives, including punishments that kept them from receiving honorable discharges even as the vast majority returned to work at the pier under immense pressure and served throughout the war. Fifty sailors who held fast to their demands for safety and training were tried as a group on charges of conspiracy to commit mutiny and were convicted and sent to prison.

The whole episode was unjust, and none of the sailors received the legal due process they were owed, Navy Secretary Carlos Del Toro said in an interview with The Associated Press.

It was "a horrific situation for those Black sailors that remained," Del Toro said. The Navy's office of general counsel reviewed the military judicial proceedings used to punish the sailors and found "there were so many inconsistencies and so many legal violations that came to the forefront," he said.

Thurgood Marshall, who was

then a defense attorney for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, defended the 50 sailors who were convicted of mutiny. Marshall went on to become the first Black justice on the Supreme Court. On Wednesday, the 80th anniversary of the Port Chicago disaster, Del Toro signed paperwork officially clearing the sailors, who are now deceased. Del Toro handed the first pen to Thurgood Marshall Jr., the late justice's son.

The exonerations "are deeply moving," Marshall Jr. said.

"They, of course, are all gone, and that's a painful aspect of it. But so many fought for so long for that kind of fairness and recognition."

President Joe Biden said the decision to exonerate is "righting a historic wrong." In the appeal of their courts martial convictions, then-NAACP attorney Marshall wrote that "justice can only be done in this case by a complete reversal of findings," Biden said in a statement. "With this action, we are answering that call."

The events have stung surviving family members for decades, but an earlier effort in the 1990s to pardon the sailors fell short. Two additional sailors were previously cleared — one was found mentally incompetent to stand trial, and one was cleared on insufficient evidence. Wednesday's action goes beyond a pardon and vacates the military judicial proceedings carried out in 1944 against all of the men. "This decision clears their names and restores their honor and acknowledges the courage that they displayed in the face of immense danger," Del Toro said. The racism that the Black sailors faced reflected the military's views at the time — ranks were segregated, and the Navy had only reluctantly opened some positions it considered less desirable to Black service members. □

## A meteor streaked over the NYC skyline before disintegrating over New Jersey



**People look out at the New York City skyline at sunset, Sunday, June 16, 2024, in Jersey City, N.J.**

Associated Press

**NEW YORK (AP)** — A meteor streaked over the New York City skyline before disintegrating over nearby New Jersey, according to NASA.

William Cooke, the head of the space agency's Meteoroid Environments Office, said the fireball was first sighted at an altitude of 51 miles (82 kilometers) above Manhattan at around 11:17 a.m. Tuesday. The meteor passed over the southern part of Newark, New Jersey, before disintegrating 31 miles (50 kilometers) above the town of Mountainside, he said. No meteorites or other fragments of space debris reached the planet's surface.

The space rock moved at a speed of about 41,000 mph (66,000 kph) and descended at a relatively steep angle of 44

degrees from vertical, Cooke said.

Its exact trajectory is uncertain, since reports are based only on eyewitness accounts and no camera or satellite data is currently available, he said.

As of Wednesday morning, there had been approximately 40 eyewitness reports filed on the American Meteor Society website, which the agency used to generate its estimates, Cooke said.

The fireball was not part of the Perseid meteor shower, and reports of loud booms and shaking could be explained by military aircraft in the vicinity around the time of its appearance, he said.

Cooke said the New York City area gets treated to a daylight fireball every year or two. □



# Traces of cyanide are found in the blood of Vietnamese and Americans found dead in a Bangkok hotel

By JINTAMAS SAKSORNCHAI  
and NAPAT KONGSAWAD  
Associated Press

**BANGKOK (AP)** — Initial autopsy results showed traces of cyanide in the blood of six Vietnamese and American guests at a luxury hotel in central Bangkok and one of them is believed to have poisoned the others over a bad investment, Thai authorities said Wednesday.

The bodies were found Tuesday in the Grand Hyatt Erawan Bangkok, a landmark at a central intersection in the capital busy with malls, government buildings and public transit.

The six had last been seen alive when food was delivered to the room Monday afternoon. The staff saw one woman receive the food, and security video showed the rest arriving one by one shortly after. There were no other visitors, no one was seen leaving and the door was locked from the inside. A maid found them Tuesday afternoon when they failed to check out of the room. Upon entering the room, hotel staff found that food ordered from the previous day was left untouched, with some servings of fried rice still under plastic wrap. While the food was untouched, several used teacups were on a nearby table, next to two thermos bottles.

Lt. Gen. Trairong Piwpan, chief of the Thai police force's forensic division, said there were traces of cyanide in the cups and bottles.

Initial results from autopsies of the six bodies, performed at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn Hospital, were shared later Wednesday. Kornkiat Vongpaisarnsin, head of the forensic medicine department at Chulalongkorn University's medical school, said at a news conference that there was cyanide in the blood of all six, and a CAT scan showed no signs of blunt force trauma, reinforcing the hypothesis that they had been poisoned.

Chulalongkorn's dean of medicine, Chanchai Sittipunt, said the team knew enough from the cyanide to determine it was likely the cause of death.



Thai police display pictures of evidence during a press conference at Lumpini police station in Bangkok, Thailand, Wednesday, July 17, 2024.

Associated Press

Bangkok police chief Lt. Gen. Thiti Sangsawang identified the dead as two Vietnamese Americans and four Vietnamese nationals, and said they were three men and three women. Their ages ranged from 37 to 56, according to Noppasin Punsawat, Bangkok deputy police chief. He said the case appeared to be personal and would not impact the safety of tourists.

A husband and wife among the dead had invested about 10 million baht (\$278,000) with two of the others, and that could be a motive, said Noppasin, citing information obtained from relatives. The investment was meant to build a hospital in Japan and the group might have been meeting to settle the matter. Police say one killed the rest but did not say which of the six was the suspect.

Bangkok police chief Lt. Gen. Thiti Sangsawang said Tuesday that four bodies were in the living room and two in the bedroom. He said two of the people appeared to have tried to reach the door but collapsed before they could.

Noppasin said Wednesday that a seventh person whose name was part of the hotel booking was a sibling of one of the six and left Thailand on July 10. Police believe the seventh person had no involvement in the deaths. The Vietnamese and United

States embassies have been contacted over the deaths, and the American FBI was en route, Prime Minister Srettha Thavisin said. "This wasn't an act of terrorism or a breach in security. Everything is fine," he said. Trairong said a mass suicide was unlikely because some of them had arranged future parts of their trip, such as guides and drivers.

He said the bodies being in different parts of the hotel room suggested they did not knowingly consume poison and wait for their deaths together. U.S. State Department spokesperson Matthew Miller in Washington offered condolences to the families of the dead. He said the U.S. is closely monitoring the situation and would communicate with local authorities. □



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# Islamic State attacks on track to double in Iraq and Syria compared to last year, U.S. military says

By **QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA**  
and **ABBY SEWELL**  
**Associated Press**

**BAGHDAD (AP)** — The U.S. Central Command said Wednesday that the Islamic State group is trying “to re-constitute” as the number of attacks in Syria and Iraq is on track to double this year, compared to the year before.

IS claimed 153 attacks in the two countries in the first six months of 2024, CENTCOM said in a statement. According to a U.S. defense official, who spoke on condition of anonymity as he wasn’t allowed to speak publicly on the matter, the group was behind 121 attacks in Syria and Iraq in 2023.

“The increase in attacks indicates ISIS is attempting to re-constitute following several years of decreased capability,” CENTCOM said.

In northeastern Syria, Kurdish-led authorities issued a general amnesty Wednesday that would include hundreds of Syrians who have been held by the main U.S.-backed force over their roles within IS.

The U.S.-backed and Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic



**A motorist passes by a flag of the Islamic State group in central Rawah, 175 miles (281 kilometers) northwest of Baghdad, Iraq, on July 22, 2014.**

**Associated Press**

Forces, or SDF, are holding over 10,000 captured IS fighters in around two dozen detention facilities — including 2,000 foreigners whose home countries have refused to repatriate them. The SDF captured the last sliver of land in Syria from IS in March 2019.

The Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria

said a life sentence will be reduced to 15 years in jail, while those detainees serving life sentences who have incurable diseases will be set free, as will those who have reached the age of 75. It said the amnesty will not include IS officials and members who fought against the SDF, nor those who carried out attacks with explosives

that killed people.

Legal expert Khaled Jabr told The Associated Press that the amnesty will include some 600 Syrian citizens who are held on terrorism charges and links to IS, as long as their hands are not tainted with blood or they were detained while fighting SDF members.

The announcement comes

just after the 10-year mark since the militant group declared its caliphate in large parts of Iraq and Syria. At its peak, the group ruled an area half the size of the United Kingdom where it attempted to enforce its extreme interpretation of Islam, which included attacks on religious minority groups and harsh punishment of Muslims deemed to be apostates.

Militants also killed thousands of members of the Yazidi religious minority and kidnapped thousands of women and children, many of whom were subjected to sexual abuse and human trafficking.

A coalition of more than 80 countries, led by the United States, was formed to fight IS, which lost its hold on the territory it controlled in Iraq and 2017 and in Syria in 2019, although sleeper cells remain in both countries and abroad.

Iraqi officials say that they can keep the IS threat under control with their own forces and have entered into talks with the U.S. aimed at winding down the mission of the U.S.-led military coalition in Iraq. □

# Interpol arrests 300 people in a global crackdown on West African crime groups across 5 continents

By **MONIKA PRONCZUK**  
**Associated Press**

**DAKAR, Senegal (AP)** — In a global operation targeting West African organized crime groups across five continents, police arrested 300 people, seized \$3 million and blocked 720 bank accounts, Interpol said Tuesday.

Operation Jackal III, which ran from 10 April to 3 July in 21 countries, aimed to fight online financial fraud and the West African syndicates behind it, the agency said in a statement.

“The volume of financial fraud stemming from West Africa is alarming and increasing,” said Isaac Oginni, director of Interpol’s Financial Crime and Anti-Corruption Centre. “This operation’s results un-

derscore the critical need for international law enforcement collaboration to combat these extensive criminal networks.”

One of the targeted groups was Black Axe, one of the

most prominent criminal networks in West Africa. Black Axe operates in cyber fraud, human trafficking, drug smuggling, and is responsible for violent crimes both within Africa

and globally, the agency added.

Black Axe used money mules to open bank accounts worldwide and is now under investigation in over 40 countries for related money laundering activities, the agency said.

The suspects include citizens from Argentina, Colombia, Nigeria and Venezuela.

In Argentina, following a five-year investigation, the police cracked down on Black Axe and seized \$1.2 million in high-quality counterfeit banknotes, arrested 72 suspects and froze approximately 100 bank accounts.

Interpol, which has 196 member countries and celebrated its centennial last year, works to help national

police forces communicate with each other and track suspects and criminals in fields like counterterrorism, financial crime, child pornography, cybercrime and organized crime.

The world’s biggest if not best-funded police organization has been grappling with new challenges including a growing caseload of cybercrime and child sex abuse, and increasing divisions among its member countries.

Interpol had a total budget of about 176 million euros (about \$188 million) last year, compared to more than 200 million euros at the European Union’s police agency, Europol, and some \$11 billion at the FBI in the United States. □



**The entrance hall of Interpol's headquarters in Lyon, central France on Sept. 27, 2017.**

**Associated Press**



## Ayo & Casibari: Aruba's famous rock formations

(Oranjestad)—The Ayo and Casibari Rock Formations are known locally as one of the crucial sites to have in your “off-road” trip itinerary. These naturally formed rock formations as just one of the few places on the island that hold a rich history of our culture and of our ancestors.

### Ayo

The Ayo Rock Formation is located in the northern part of the island, right on the road that leads you to the Black Stone Beach, and close to the Natural Bridge. The Ayo is a fenced terrain that consists of several giant boulders, resting neatly on top

of or side by side each other, adding gorgeous natural architecture to the surrounding “mondi”\*. This is also one of the few sites to contain pre-historic markings of our indigenous ancestors. The Ayo Rock formation contains stairs that lead you to the top of the highest boulder, offering a breath-taking view of the Aruban backyard. The Ayo is usually quiet, as it is situated farther away from the busier parts of the island. However, this is just another charm of the site: the quiet area and the refreshing breeze offer a sense of comfort and peace.

### Casibari

Probably the busier rock formation site, the Casibari is situated more in the center of the island, much closer—and more accessible—to the general public. Just like Ayo, Casibari is a fenced area containing several boulders that lay on top or lean on each other. The best aspect of the Casibari Rock Formation is the accompanying view when you climb up the top of the round, flat bolder. For this position, you can see the majority of the island and the ocean in the south. Right in front of the entrance, there is the Casibari Café and Grill, a great place to get

refreshments and snack before continuing your off-road adventure!

Both sites are open free to the public, 24 hours a day. However, unless you are taking a trip with a professional tour guide, there are no guides at the sites to help you climb the rock. So, do be careful when trudging on the boulders, and make sure to befriend any roaming goats you see along the way!

\*Mondi: what we call our Aruban wilderness. We don't have forests, or deserts, but we do have mondi! □

## Celebrating 65 Years of Island Hospitality: 1959 – 2024 Aruba's first luxury hotel is celebrating 65 years on Thursday July 18th, 2024



Long before becoming the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino, the iconic bastion of hospitality was originally named the Aruba Caribbean Hotel, and it was the first luxury resort on the Caribbean Dutch Island of Aruba. It officially opened its doors in 1959 and paved the way for tourism here.

To commemorate these 65 years, and to celebrate the hotel's debut as the pioneer of Aruba's luxury hospitality, the Hilton Aruba invites guests and locals to visit the newly renovated Sunset Bar, with an offer for the second drink, served at 1959 prices, only on July 18th, 2024, throughout the day.

Enjoy a Caribbean Punch for \$1.25 or a Banana Daiquiri for just \$1.- and imagine yourself sixty-five years ago, at the opening ceremony of the new Palm Beach landmark, in the presence of the Governor of the Netherlands Antilles, representing the Government of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. He gave a short speech, just before cutting the ribbon.

The first General Manager of the Aruba Caribbean Hotel, had a limitless budget to bring the best entertainers of that time to perform in the “Klompens Klub,” among them Xavier Cugat, Harry Belafonte, Jack Benny, and Liberace.

Just before opening, during the hotel soft opening period, the 120-member Washington Symphony Orchestra came to perform in Aruba for two days.

Nicknamed the “Grand Dame,” the resort was designed by one of America's most famous hotel architects, Morris Lapidus, who also designed landmark hotels such as the Fontainebleau, the Eden Roc, and the Americana, in Miami Beach, Florida. Of the 276 hotels designed by Morris Lapidus in his lifetime, his design of the first large hotel in Aruba is considered one of his best.

When it opened in 1959, the resort quickly became a favorite getaway for world-famous jetsetters. Over the years,

the resort has hosted many distinguished guests, including members of the Dutch Royal family and renowned entertainers.

Among the royal visitors were Queen Beatrix of the Netherlands, King Willem-Alexander, and Princess Margriet van Vollenhoven. Additionally, prominent singers like Harry Belafonte and George Benson have also stayed here.

Other celebrity entertainers, including Elizabeth Taylor, Eddy Fisher, Jack Benny, Arthur Godfrey, Xavier Cugat, Abbe Lane, Jan Peerce, Liberace, Natalie Wood, Bob Hope, Roger Moore, and Tony Martin, have



all graced the resort with their presence.

Drop in for a drink on July 18th and enjoy a second Antilles Cooler, a Gin and Crème de Menthe cocktail, or a second Papiamento O La La, a Cointreau, Vodka and Rum concoction for only \$1.20. □

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## Papillon: Where Culinary Tradition Sparks with Timeless Elegance



**Tucked away in the vibrant heart of the Village for over a decade and a half, Papillon isn't just a restaurant; it's a culinary adventure waiting to unfold. Picture this: a sanctuary where the flavors of the French Caribbean have danced harmoniously with classic French fare for the past 15 years, all set against the backdrop of a movie-inspired ambiance that's as enchanting as it is welcoming.**

Located in the heart of Palm Beach and within walking distance from hotels and local markets in the area, Papillon takes the famous story of a French man experiencing the flavors and culture of the Caribbean and incorporates these aspects of the Caribbean touch into their French culinary repertoire. Step through the doors of the newly-expanded Papillon, and you're not just stepping into a dining establishment; you're stepping into a world where sophistication embraces you like an old friend. The decor, a homage to the allure of the iconic film, casts a spell of intimacy and comfort, urging you to settle in and relish every moment. Here, dining isn't just about sustenance; it's about indulging in an experience meticulously crafted to ignite your senses.

At the heart of Papillon's magic lies its menu – a symphony of flavors orchestrated by culinary artisans. Imagine savoring the decadent richness of foie gras or the sublime delicacy of frog legs, each dish a love letter to tradition infused with a dash of innovation. And oh, the spectacle of the Dover sole being expertly prepared table-side! It's culinary theater at its finest, leaving you spellbound with every bite. All this served with a backdrop of the Caribbean ambience, complete with live musical performances and an inviting and colorful twist to your dinner experience!

But wait, there's more! Enter the realm of the Chef's Table, a weekly extravaganza led by the maestro himself, Executive Chef Juan Ludeña. Prepare to be whisked away on a six-course odyssey, each dish meticulously paired with wines handpicked from the largest French wine selection on the island by the esteemed Maitre d' Michael Otten. It's a soirée reserved for those who truly appreciate the artistry of gastronomy – an exquisite symphony for the palate.



In essence, Papillon isn't just a restaurant; it's an oasis for epicurean explorers. It's where passion meets refinement, where every dish is a masterpiece waiting to be savored, and every moment is a celebration of the finer things in life. So if you're craving the warmth of French Caribbean delights, Papillon invites you to join them on an unforgettable journey for the senses. Bon appétit!

Papillon is located in Palm Beach in front of the Hilton Resort, and open from 5pm to 10pm. Early Bird takes places from 5pm to 7pm. For reservations or more information please contact the restaurant at +297 699 5400, e-mail them at [info@papillonaruba.com](mailto:info@papillonaruba.com) or visit their website at [papillonaruba.com](http://papillonaruba.com)





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## Aruba's neighborhoods; the meaning behind their names

Just like any other country, Aruba has unique and beautifully named neighborhoods that all form a part of its culture and development. Many of these names have a historical background and meaning that teaches us about the island and its rich culture every day.

With this series, we want to take you on a journey of discovery, where you'll learn not only the beautiful names but the history behind it that gives it life and meaning.

### Anabui/Tierra Del Sol

This neighborhood can be seen on Van Raders map and Werbata as Anna Boei. Anna Boei is a name of which there isn't much information about its origin.



The best historians were able to deduce is that this name came to be because of a miscommunication between Van Spengler and the natives who were living on the island. In the Arawak/Taino language one can find the word Anaiboa, which consists of Ana meaning flower or the best and Iboa; the juice of a cassava, which together

would mean "the best juice of a cassava".

If one assumes that the actual word heard was Ana-boio instead, consisting of Ana meaning the best and Boio (bohio); house, the iteration of Anabui would mean "the best house." This is the origin that has been more or less speculated and assumed for the word Anabui and its meaning.

During the second world war and later, this area was used as a terrain for training of shooting by militia and later on Korps Mariniers (the marines of Aruba). By the end of the previous century a large part of Anabui was developed to have luxurious villas and a golf course, which lead to it getting the name Tierra Del Sol, Spanish for Land of the Sun. The name is not an official name, but the name of the development project that took place. It is hoped that the original and 'old' name of Anabui is never lost and now it will be remembered by both locals and tourists.

### Angochi

This name can be seen on the Werbata map with little and cursive letters. It is

the unofficial name for the area given by a tenant to the land that was rented to him.

The biggest probability that historians believe is that it comes from native descent, during the time in the 19th century where Mestizos still lived on Aruba. The name can't really be explain and according to books on its history seems to be more of a sign of corruption.

However, it seems to come from combining A(n), which is a generalizing prefix and Goeiza, which means 'the spirit of a living man'. Angochi remains more of a guess.

This neighborhood's abbreviation is; An.□

## Lessons from our elders:

### Plants and fruits for medicinal use (part 2)

(Oranjestad)—In last week's edition, we shared with our readers some medicinal use for plants and fruits, passed down from our elders through generations. This week, we present two more uses of fruits and plants for medicinal use.

#### Sweet potato

According to our elders, sweet potato is mostly useful for low blood pressure. People who suffer from low blood pressure were advised to eat sweet potato 2 to 3 times a week. However, if you have high blood pressure, it is best not to eat too much sweet potato, as this

raises blood pressure. Sweet potatoes are also great for people who work hard labor jobs, and it's been said to be aid blood circulation in the body, as well as help those with hemorrhoids or diarrhea.

Many of our elders opted to plant sweet potatoes themselves, mostly because of how easy it was to do so. Cut the end of a sweet potato let it sit in shallow water until it starts to sprout. Then you may plant it in the ground. Sweet potatoes need plenty of water to grow, especially in the first week in the ground. It was said that once you start to notice the ground crack

underneath the flowers, it is time to harvest. This should happen around month 3.

#### Pomegranate

Pomegranates are also one of the easier fruits to plant and harvest. Originated from Persia, this plant can grow almost everywhere. In Aruba, there are many homes that have a tiny or big pomegranate tree.

You may be wondering what the difference is between a small and big pomegranate tree, for which the answer is based on harvest time. Tiny trees produce tinier pomegranates that can be har-

vested early on. Contrarily, big trees produce bigger pomegranates, but they need enough time to fully ripen before harvesting, otherwise you might end up with bitter seeds. Pomegranate trees are also very easy to plant. In essence, if you just throw the seeds on the ground, they could grow into a tree.

In terms of medicinal use, pomegranate skins are said to have a few benefits for our health. According to customs, pomegranate skin tea can help those that suffer from diarrhea. Dried pomegranate skin tea is also good



for people who have worms. Pomegranate flowers can be boiled to make a drink and this can be used for irritated gums; just take a swig and let the tea sit in your mouth for a couple minutes.□

Source: Remedii Kustumber di nos Bieunan (Medicine and Customs of our Elderly) by Dinah Veeris



# The Casino Aruba at Hilton Unveils Exciting New Slot Machines and Announces Reopening of Main Lobby Door



Oranjestad, Aruba– The Casino Aruba at Hilton is thrilled to announce the arrival of the newest addition to its gaming floor, the exhilarating Jackpot Carnival™ slot machines. Alongside this exciting launch, we are pleased to inform our guests that the main lobby door is now back open following the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort's main lobby renovations.

## Introducing Jackpot Carnival™ Slot Machines

Step right up and experience the thrill of the carnival with our brand-new Jackpot Carnival™ slot machines. The fun never stops with this vibrant and engaging game,

now featuring your favorite Aristocrat characters. Players can look forward to climbing the multiplier chart with the return of the popular Clown feature, and the all-new hammer bonus offering credit prizes and free games. The Jackpot Carnival™ promises a gaming experience full of excitement, colorful visuals, and big win potential. "We are always looking to bring the latest and most entertaining gaming options to our guests, and Jackpot Carnival™ is a fantastic addition to our floor," said Danilo Hernandez, Casino Slot Manager at The Casino Aruba at Hilton. "We can't wait for our players to enjoy the unique features and thrilling gameplay that this new machine offers."

## Main Lobby Door Reopens

In addition to the launch of the Jackpot Carnival™ slot machines, we are delighted to announce that the main lobby door of the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort is once again open. The recently completed renovations have revitalized our main lobby, enhancing the welcoming atmosphere for all our guests. We appreciate everyone's patience during this time and are excited to welcome you through our newly renovated entrance.



"We're pleased to reopen our main lobby door, providing a refreshed and more inviting entrance for our guests," said Jeannot Lacle, Casino Manager. "The renovations reflect our commitment to offering a superior experience from the moment our guests arrive."

## Join Us for the Excitement

The Casino Aruba at Hilton invites all guests to join us and experience the new Jackpot Carnival™ slot machines. Enjoy the lively atmosphere, the chance for big wins, and the convenience of our newly reopened main lobby door. For more information about The Casino Aruba at Hilton, please visit

[www.tcaruba.com](http://www.tcaruba.com)

## About The Casino Aruba at Hilton

Located in the heart of the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort, The Casino Aruba at Hilton offers a premier gaming experience with a wide variety of slots, table games, and exciting promotions. Our commitment to exceptional service and entertainment makes us a top destination for both locals and tourists. □



# Sun catchers: The different lizards in Aruba

**ORANJESTAD – Colorful or camouflaged, you're bound to encounter a variety of lizards basking in the sun or scurrying on their way in our island. From the charming, friendly iguanas to the good-luck gecko Pega-Pega, you're bound to meet a few of these special residents during your visit.**

Aruba, as a desert island, is home to an incredible variety of unique and colorful species. Among them we can find different lizards, most of which have South American origins. But there are a few exceptions.

## Iguanas

Iguanas are easy to spot, as they are larger than most other lizards and when young, have a bright green color that makes them stand out.

The iguanas usually found in Aruba are the Iguana iguana, known as the green iguana, or locally as Yuwana. The Yuwana are a mostly herbivorous species, and can grow

up to 2 meters in size, including the tail, making them one of the largest in the iguana family. As you will see, despite their name, as they reach adulthood, the iguanas can take on a grey or blue tone instead of the bright green displayed by the young ones. In Aruba – as in the rest of the Kingdom of the Netherlands – the most usual color varies from green to lavender, black and sometimes a reddish brown.

Yuwana is a protected species, as it is listed under Appendix II of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), meaning that international trade is regulated through the CITES permit system. In the past, Arubans used to eat a popular Yuwana soup, as it was believed to give strength and help restore health – probably due to the protein boost it delivered. However, it is now illegal to catch, kill, buy or sell Yuwanas in Aruba, and this includes eating them!

## Turnip-tailed gecko

The turnip-tailed gecko is known

locally as the Pega-Pega, meaning sticky-sticky, due to the way it sticks to walls using the suction in its little fingers. They are found inside houses, and are mostly a nocturnal animal.

According to Etnia Nativa, the local Pega Pega is immediately recognizable by its large size, with a body length of up to 12 cm, and its large, swollen tail, approximately the same length or slightly shorter than its body; females are larger and more robust than males. It has short, robust legs with flattened toes and extensive basal webbing. The undersides of its toes are covered in lamellae, which are used as friction pads to cling to smooth vertical surfaces. Some can even walk around completely upside down. Its toes are covered with ridges, which are peppered with millions of microscopic bristle-like structures called setae that attach and detach when the animal wills them to, and they never get gunked up.

They are variable in coloration, from a mottled dark gray to orange-brown, and are capable of changing color depending on their mood and surroundings. Mottled and banded markings aid in camouflage against tree bark. They are harmless and fragile; you can hold one in your hands as long as you are VERY gentle.

Never put pressure on its tail because it will surely drop as a measure to try to distract the predator, and they are different from other lizards because they're long-lived, talkative, lack eyelids, and their small scales are situated next to each other like cobblestones rather than overlapping as is the case in most other lizards.

Turnip-tailed Geckos are insectivorous and feed on cockroaches, grasshoppers, beetles, flies, mosquitoes, and spiders, which makes them the best pest control to have at home!

Continued on Page 11



## Exploring the Mainstreet of San Nicolas



**SAN NICOLAS—** At just 11 miles southeast from Oranjestad you will enter the city San Nicolas, also known as Sunrise City or Chocolate City. A city that is rich in authentic culture and island charm. San Nicolas is Aruba's second largest city and was once a bustling company town dominated by the oil industry since the early 1930's.

Over the course of four decades, its demographics had changed immensely due to a stream of Afro-Caribbean and South American workers who came to fill the jobs in the oil refinery between the 1920's until the 1960's. To this day traces of the multicultural influences in culinary offerings and customs, housing and population are clearly visible in San Nicolas - more than anywhere else on the island.

### Flow of history

if you are looking for history San Nicolas has it. Here you will find three amazing museums, The Museum of Industry, the Community Museum and the Carnival Euphoria, all within walking distance from one another.

The Museum of Industry is situated in the Water Tower in San Nicolas and narrates Aruba's industrial history which began in the 19th century. Here you will learn about gold, aloe, phosphate, oil and the tourism industries which made San Nicolas once a bustling business center. Experience the touching stories of those who were part of this history.

Nicolaas Store built in 1940 and renovated in 2014 is the home of the Community Museum. The collection is

remarkable and spans millennia. Ancient fossils stand next to tableaux of an authentically recreated colonial kitchen and bedroom and 19th-century barber-shop, just to name a few of the items of old-time Aruba that has been preserved. A collection of artifacts and other objects of artistic, cultural, historical, or scientific importance can be found here for the purpose of education or enjoyment.

Carnival Euphoria is showcasing Aruba's Carnival. See how are Carnival has developed over the past 65 years.

### The new San Nicolas

In the shadow of the refinery, an art capital is quietly beginning to grow. This is the new San Nicolas, a place that is starting to become a magnet for all that is young, cool and hip in Aruba. Indeed, San Nicolas has all of the ingredients of an emerging cultural hub — varied history, interesting architecture, and, perhaps most importantly, an urban layout that makes it walkable. As you walk around, the streets are silent but the walls are loud, filled with bright, colorful murals painted by a collection of artists from around the world. Thanks to the efforts



of various art organizations in Aruba, such as Art Rules Aruba and Aruba Art Fair, San Nicolas has had quite the aesthetic makeover with regards to vibrant street art. Each year more and more stunning murals are replacing broken down buildings with colorful art pieces that keep brightening up SunriseCity.

### Must See, Do, Buy & Eat

A little bit of everything can be found in the main street. Stores selling shoes, clothing, jewelry you name it.

Arts & crafts by Cosecha store & Creative Center, a design store in which you can immerse yourself in discovering genuine and locally made arts and crafts which reflect the diversification of the Aruban craft heritage and the artistic supply of artisans. Don't miss out on trying the exquisite food offered by the cafes and restaurants or just enjoy a peaceful walk admiring the murals, mosaic benches and all the history San Nicolas has to offer. □

## Sun catchers

Continued from Page 10

They spend their days concealed in dark tree grooves and cavities, in narrow crevices in the walls, or behind paintings, which provide the perfect shelter for them. Pega pega is a gecko endemic to our island, but in time, some 4-5 intrusive gecko species have been observed, some of which do not cease to amaze us with the racket they make, especially during the hours of the night.

The Pega-pega *Phyllodactylus Julieni* is also a protected species in Aruba, by law. It is illegal to kill them!

### Blue Kododo

These are one of the most striking lizards in Aruba, recognizable by the male's bright blue color.



The Aruban whiptail lizard, *Cnemidophorus arubensis*, is a species endemic to Aruba, meaning you can only find it here on our One Happy Island! They are also recognized as the most common and populous lizard on the island. While the male is blue with white dots, the female is brown with blue dots.

These charming lizards eat mostly plants, such as flowers, nectar, leaves and fruits, and occasionally enjoy some insects. They are selective in which plants they eat, be-

cause of the toxins present in many available plants species. The Kododo help take care of Aruba's vegetation by playing a significant role in the dispersal of seeds for certain plants: when they eat fruit, they excrete the seeds in diverse locations, contributing to the reproduction cycle of our local plants.

### Striped anole

The striped anole (*Anolis lineatus*) that lives in Aruba is known locally as Waltaka or Toteki. This is a species of lizard in the family Dactyloidae, and they are native to Aruba and Curaçao. It is usually found in dry areas, commonly where there are not large trees; rather they enjoy rocks, walls or tree trunks, as they prefer to stay close to the ground.

These lizards are about 7cm in length, have a brown color with a

stripe on each side and typically, several stripes on the body and tail that are lighter in color. It has a dewlap which is orange-yellow – and what's unique about this species is that it is the only known species of anole where the dewlap is asymmetrically colored, with one side being a deeper orange and the other side a lighter yellow. Mostly this is seen in the males, as it is almost imperceptible in the females. If the Toteki shows you his dewlap, retreat! This is not a friendly greeting!

Lizards are wonderful creatures that are precious to our fragile, local ecosystem. Please be mindful of these residents as you enjoy your stay. □

**Images:** Some images are from Aruba Birdlife Conservation.



## CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

### ACROSS

- 1 Choir voice
- 5 Justice symbol
- 11 Wander
- 12 Place
- 13 Qualified
- 14 Like some mushrooms
- 15 Roared
- 17 Kayo count
- 18 Stair part
- 22 "Keen!"
- 24 Chump
- 25 Athena's symbol
- 26 Massage need
- 27 Turns suddenly
- 30 Writer Bret
- 32 Useful ability
- 33 Drama division
- 34 Britain's Thatcher
- 38 Not out
- 41 Dreaded
- 42 Ways to go
- 43 Wading bird
- 44 Sidewalk stuff
- 45 Invites

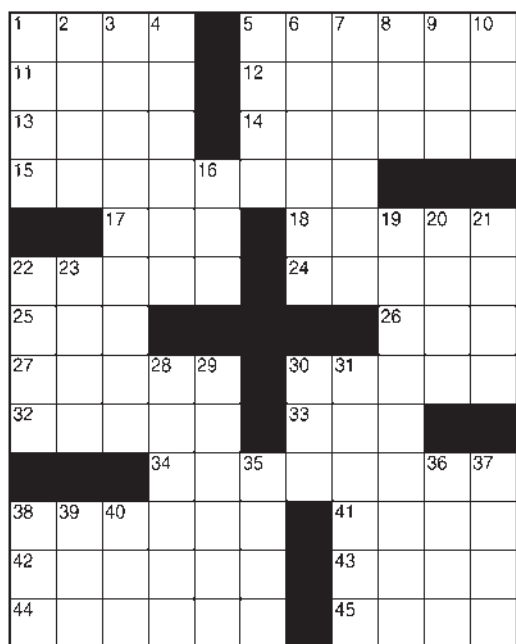
### DOWN

- 1 Swift horse
- 2 Ear part
- 3 Yarns
- 4 Brunch dish
- 5 Whole lot
- 6 Software writers
- 7 Like lemon juice
- 8 Research site
- 9 Building wing
- 10 Notice
- 16 Lennon's love
- 19 Beef cut



Yesterday's answer

- 20 Throw off
- 21 Part easy
- 22 Flaring star
- 23 Some sheep
- 28 TV accessory
- 29 Flower part
- 30 Crone
- 31 Maine park
- 35 Take it
- 36 Composer Satie
- 37 Thomas Hardy
- 38 Compass trace
- 39 Sock part
- 40 Engine sound



4-25

AXYDLBAAXR  
is LONGFELLOW

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

4-25

### CRYPTOQUOTE

Z F O H N P J N D Y G K R F  
P F N X P P F L K G X G V Y N Y H L K R J K  
O H P F K R J L R J U I H I K R F  
V F H V U F J P F P Y A R K O H P F K R J L  
R J U I K R F K Y O F. — F.S. Q R Y K F

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: TURN YOUR FACE TO THE SUN, AND THE SHADOWS FALL BEHIND YOU. — UNKNOWN

## Cruise ship Schedule: July 01 - July 30 2024

			ARR	DEPT	BERTH	
THU	04	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	09	ADVENTURE OF THE SEAS	08.00	20.00	B	1
		CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
WED	10	RHAPSODY OF THE SEAS	09.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	16	CARNIVAL CELEBRATION	08.00	22.00	C	1
		CARNIVAL VISTA	13.00	23.00	I	1
WED	17	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1
TUE	23	CARNIVAL HORIZON	09.00	22.00	C	1
TUE	30	CELEBRITY BEYOND	08.00	21.00	C	1

## Helpful tips for your stay on Aruba

(Oranjestad)—When traveling to another country, especially for the first time, it is always better to be over-prepared than under-prepared. That is why we have a list of basic but important information that we think may come in handy to Aruba's visitors.

lets used on the island: type A with two flat prongs; type B with two flat and one grounding prong, and on occasion, type F with two round prong and two earth clips on the side. However, Type A is most commonly found in homes and establishments.

### Electrical power



Aruba generally operates on 110V to 127V supply voltage and 60Hz. There are also three types of out-

### Drinking water



The water that flows through the sinks of every house, hotels and other establishments is distilled and perfectly safe to drink. Aruba's drinking water exceeds WHO's international standards for water quality, so there is no need to buy bottled water from the store.

### Supermarket hours



Supermarket hours may vary depending on where you are staying on the island. Generally though, most supermarkets are open from 8am to 9 or 10pm, Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, supermarkets generally close earlier; mostly around 2pm.

### Safety



Since February 2024, Aruba has been categorized as the safest country in the Caribbean by The Telegraph, and many tourist that visit have often told us how they feel safe to explore the island or walk around at night. However, rare incidents do occur, so keep yourself and your belongings safe.

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This image provided by California Closets shows a comfortable and cozy sleeping area in a studio apartment.

Associated Press

## Don't work in bed, and other tips for creating a peaceful sleep zone in a studio apartment

By **KIM COOK**  
**Associated Press**

There's a lot to be said for the work/play energy of a nice studio or other small apartment during the day. But how do you bring that energy down to get a good night's sleep?

With electronics, cookery, clothes and books all in one space, it can be a challenge to create a restful refuge.

Design and sleep experts have some tips: Prioritize a sleep space, starting with the bed

Everyone needs good sleep to stay healthy.

"The primary rule, maybe the only rule of small space design, is people have

to be honest about how they really live," says Olivia Hosken, House Beautiful's deputy managing editor. "When there's limited square footage, there's less allowance for things that don't function optimally." □

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### House for sale

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eagle beach  
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Price : \$ 500,000  
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johnnypaesch@gmail.com

### House for sale

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Price : \$450,000  
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Eagle : Tel.587 9011

#### San Nicolas:

Centro Medico:Tel. 584 5794

### OTHER

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Blood Bank Aruba 587 0002  
Urgent Care 586 0448  
Walk-In Doctor's Clinic  
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### EMERGENCY

Police	100
Oranjestad	527 3140
Noord	527 3200
Sta. Cruz	527 2900
San Nicolas	584 5000
Police Tipline	11141
Ambulancia	911
Fire Dept.	115
Red Cross	582 2219

### TAXI SERVICES

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Taxi D.T.S.	587 2300
Taxi Serv. Aruba	583 3232
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### TRAVEL INFO

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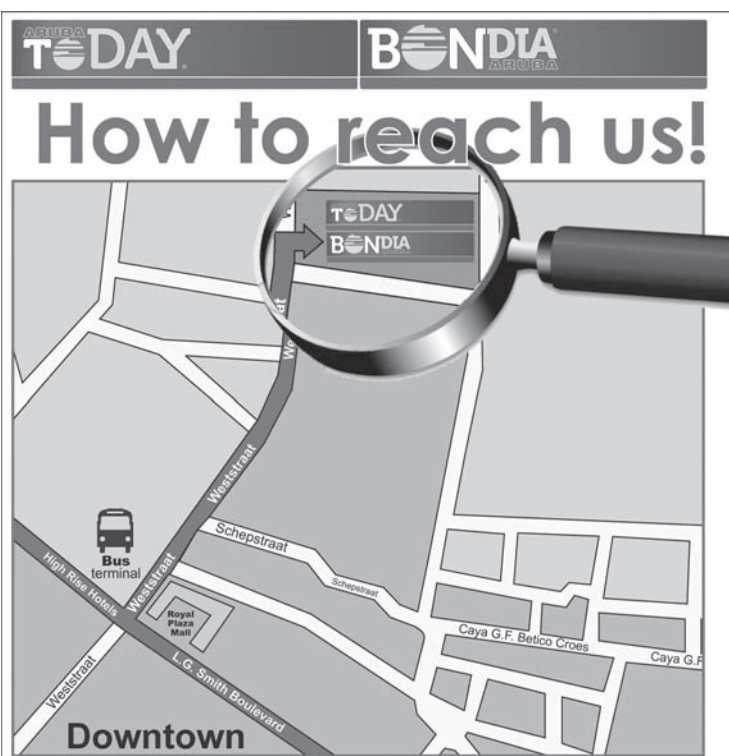
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## Movie Review: A new generation drives into the storm in rousing 'Twisters'

By **LINDSEY BAHR**  
AP Film Writer

We have a complex relationship with disaster movies. Just look at the discussion about a "Twisters" poster, which became a perfect encapsulation of our love-hate tendencies.

In the promo for the film, in theaters Thursday, actors Daisy Edgar-Jones, Glen Powell and Anthony Ramos are standing in front a massive, menacing cyclone. It not only contains various objects swirling in mid-air, from houses to trucks, but also appears to be on fire. Some people wondered why the stars weren't looking at said tornado. Others said if you're asking questions like why the tornado is on fire, this movie isn't for you.

Both lines of thought can be true though. Maybe their coexistence is essential. This makes no sense! Also, sign me up immediately! Disaster movies are almost required to be graded on a curve. And filmmaker Lee Isaac Chung's entry into the canon is perfectly paradoxical.

It might not be fair, or rational, but there is something about the genre that inspires otherwise reasonable moviegoers to giddily give themselves over to a wild premise the more ridiculous and illogical the better. There is something to be said about the joy



This image released by Universal Pictures shows Glen Powell, left, and Daisy Edgar-Jones in a scene from "Twisters."

Associated Press

of collective laughter where there wasn't an intentional joke, or a spirited post-movie debate about the flawed logistics of a plan and exactly how many people have died from being sucked into a tornado. These are the movies that are hard to see clearly the first time but tend to become sneaky favorites over the years.

Such is the case with "Twister," Jan de Bont's film about storm chasing and remarriage. The modern collective love for it would probably surprise even the critics who reviewed it favorably in 1996. Part of that is certainly the

fact that in the 28 years since it was released we lost both Philip Seymour Hoffman and Bill Paxton. But it's also just fun to watch with fresh eyes, to see the internet remember (or realize for the first time) that one of the storm chasers was played by Todd Field, the man who would go on to write and direct "Tár." I re-watched it recently on plane and had a blast. I'd forgotten the insane opening but remembered Dusty's impassioned foot chant.

There's been a lot of cautious optimism surrounding "Twisters" that's felt different from a lot of the reboots and "new

chapters" (anything to avoid calling it a sequel) that have come and gone in recent years. Audiences are craving something big and fun, but worried that it won't live up to their idea of what it should be. This is inherently flawed because "Twister" has earned its reputation, its quotability, across many viewings and many years. "Twisters" we're just meeting. It's hard to get too excited about a first date.

But Chung, a filmmaker best known for the comparatively small "Minari," has made a solid film with escalating action sequences that look

great on the big screen. There is once again a crazy opening that gives Edgar-Jones' tornado-obsessed Kate a trauma origin story. The story is credited to Joseph Kosinski (who was once going to direct) and the screenplay to Mark L. Smith ("The Revenant") and none of them can get the original out of their heads. Yes, these are all new characters (including Powell's YouTube star storm wrangler Tyler) and the only real connection to the first movie is that the Dorothy technology exists. But it is so referential as to be distracting: Literal lines of dialogue ("I'm not back"); An attempt to make Tyler's crew a gang of Dustys (which underserves actors like Sasha Lane and Katy O'Brian); Making David Corenswet wear what's essentially a recreation of Carrey Elwes' baseball cap and earpiece. Don't they want us to think of "Twisters" on its own terms?

But Chung clearly also had a vision, attempting to ground the insanity in a real place with regionally appropriate styles and music, and deeper characterization. The supporting players were thoughtfully cast. Its leads, Powell and Edgar-Jones, are endlessly watchable with palpable chemistry, even as they're monologuing about sodium polyacrylate. □

## Music Review: Clairo aims to 'Charm' on lush and layered new album

By **RON HARRIS**  
Associated Press

Clairo, the Atlanta-based indie pop singer-songwriter, is out and about with "Charm," her third album overall and first record in three years.

The 11-track release is a masterclass in modern but reflective music, hearkening back to '70s-inspired pop grooves with a smooth layer of Clairo's characteristic soul.

Clairo previously landed on many a cool kid's aesthetic playlist with lovely tracks such as "Sofia" and "Bags." She continues along the themes of love and sexuality here, blending playful melodies with astute lyrics that observe the heart's volatile conditions: wanting, waiting,

accepting, and exploring. The standout song is "Sexy to Someone," a repeat-worthy track on which Clairo sings about wanting to be wanted. "I want afterglow and when I call a car / Send me eyes with the knowing that I could pull it off," Clairo croons against an upbeat drum shuffle and soft synthesizer stabs. Desiring to be sexy to someone is sexier than singing about simply being sexy. These are the savvy songwriting levels that Clairo understands and delivers.

If you want something to move your body to, steer toward "Add Up My Love," a certified bop by Clairo standards, quicker in pace than her usual lilt and a track that shows off the singer's vocal

ability. Credit must go to Clairo and her "Charm" co-producer Leon Michaels (of The Dap-Kings and El Michels Affair) for their attention to analog. Clairo and company brought together a live ensemble of horns, woodwinds and vintage synthesizers to create a sound that is lush and respectful of the pre-digital process.

Clairo fans are likely to love this release. Newcomers to her music will be glad they found her. Clairo remains a standout artist among the current cadre of indie pop practitioners for her quality lyricism and consistent melodic inventiveness. She's a cut above one-trick ponies that deliver fleeting earworms. □



This cover image shows the self-released "Charm" by Clairo.  
Associated Press



# Great golf and being on the good side of the draw go a long way at the British Open

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

TROON, Scotland (AP) —

Justin Thomas made his British Open debut at Royal Troon eight years ago, and it taught him everything he needs to know about what can make this major so maddening.

It had nothing to do with gorse bushes or pot bunkers. It was about weather and tee times.

"I was in the bad one," Thomas said.

By that he meant the bad side of the draw, and it's part of the charm or curse of the Open.

It was fairly benign in the opening round at Royal Troon in 2016, all the way through Friday morning until 30 mph (48 kph) wind and a driving rain made players in the afternoon feel they were on a different course than those who played early.

So severe was the change in weather that the leading 14 players going into the weekend, including Henrik Stenson and Phil Mickelson, came from one side of the draw.

"I've never in my life grinded so hard to finish 50th," Thomas said. "I shot 77 and made the cut by one. The



Rickie Fowler, left, Justin Thomas and Gary Woodland, right, of the United States walk down from the 13th tee during a practice round ahead of the British Open Golf Championships at Royal Troon golf club in Troon, Scotland, Wednesday, July 17, 2024.

worst part was Saturday and Sunday. The morning was the worst and you couldn't gain any ground." Summer daylight hours in the U.K. enable players to start off one tee for the entire day. Justin Leonard will hit the opening tee shot on Thursday at 6:30 a.m. (0530 GMT). Sam Horsfield is the last to play. He will tee off about 4:30 p.m.

That allows the weather to

play a massive role. That happens elsewhere, but it is more pronounced in links golf.

Sometimes the worst of it is in the morning, as in 2008 when Rich Beem and Sandy Lyle walked off Royal Birkdale after nine and 10 holes, respectively.

The forecast for the start of the 152nd Open is for off-and-on rain during the day with gusts in the 20 mph

(32 kph) range early in the afternoon about the time Rory McIlroy and Jon Rahm are finishing their rounds and then easing late. And then more gusts Friday afternoon.

It's worth noting the forecast seems to change by the day. No one will really know until they're in the clear, or feeling like they are being blown into the Irish sea.

In recent times, Louis Oosthuizen caught the good side of the draw in St. Andrews. It was relatively calm all of Thursday. McIlroy opened with a 63 in 2010 and then the wind became so fierce in the afternoon that McIlroy shot 80.

Oosthuizen finished his 65-67 start right before the wind came through. His name stayed atop the leaderboard for 11 hours that day and he led by five when it was over and wound up winning by seven shots. Good golf and a good draw go a long way.

"It's part and parcel of the Open. There's always good draws and bad draws," Tommy Fleetwood said.

"Generally if you get unlucky and there is a good side and a bad side, that's wiping out half the field already. The good news is if you're on the good side. That's half of them gone and you only have to beat half the field."

"But that's always been part of the Open and that's the beauty of it," he said.

"You have to be ready for whatever the conditions bring, along with the golf course. It's very important to embrace what can happen." □

Associated Press

## Carapaz earns his first Tour de France stage win

SUPERDEVOLUY, France

(AP) — Richard Carapaz claimed his first Tour de France stage win after showcasing his climbing prowess in the final ascents on Wednesday in the Alps. Two-time champion Tadej Pogacar kept the overall race lead.

The 17th stage, covering 178 kilometers (110 miles) from Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux to Superdévoluy, started with a gradual 130-kilometer climb through the Drôme region and presented no major challenges for the peloton. However, the last part of the race was a different story with the climbs of Col

Bayard and Col du Noyer. Carapaz and Simon Yates led an early breakaway of 50 riders. As they approached the final climb, Carapaz launched a decisive attack on Yates before reaching the summit of Col du Noyer.

"For me today is very special," the EF Education-EasyPost rider said after the race.

"Winning a stage was the biggest objective for me and my team and we finally managed to do it."

The 31-year-old Carapaz also became the first man from Ecuador to win a Tour stage.

He won the men's road

race gold medal at the Tokyo Olympics but missed out on being selected for the Paris Olympics. He finished third in the Tour de France in 2021 and won the 2019 Giro d'Italia.

British rider Simon Yates was second on Wednesday, 37 seconds behind Carapaz.

Pogacar slightly increased his lead over Jonas Vingegaard to 3 minutes, 11 seconds, by launching two attacks on the Col du Noyer and a few meters before the finishing line. Vingegaard, currently second in the general classification, was once again unable to match Pogacar's pace and conceded two



Ecuador's Richard Carapaz celebrates as he crosses the finish line to win the seventeenth stage of the Tour de France cycling race over 177.8 kilometers (110.5 miles) with start in Saint-Paul-Trois-Châteaux and finish in Superdévoluy, France, Wednesday, July 17, 2024.

Associated Press

more seconds overall.

"The climb was really steep today so I wanted to test my legs and see if they were still in good shape in the third week of competi-

tion," Pogacar said about his repeated attacks in the Col du Noyer climb. "It was a good day."

Biniam Girmay kept the best sprinter's green jersey. □



# MLB will consider whether to return to club uniforms in All-Star Game

By **RONALD BLUM**  
AP Baseball Writer

**ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)** —

Major League Baseball will consider going back to having players wear their team uniforms for the All-Star Game.

Club uniforms were used by the American League from 1933-2019 and by the National League from 1934-2019. When the game resumed in 2021 following the pandemic-related cancellation in 2020, MLB had started a uniform contract with Nike and Fanatics, and All-Stars were outfitted in specially designed league uniforms that drew criticism from traditionalists.

This year's AL uniforms had a sandy base with red sleeves and lettering and the NL had a navy base with light blue sleeves and lettering.



American League players line up before the MLB All-Star baseball game, Tuesday, July 16, 2024, in Arlington, Texas.

Associated Press

"I'm aware of the sentiment on this issue," Manfred told the Baseball Writers' Asso-

ciation of America on Tuesday. "I think where my head is on it, it's something we're

going to have a conversation about coming out of the All-Star Game. We've

got a lot of uniform things going on. And, obviously, the conversations have to involve the players first and foremost but Nike, some of our partners. But I am aware of the sentiment, and I do know why people kind of like that tradition."

MLB and Nike were criticized for club uniforms this year and said in May that 2025 club outfits will have larger lettering on the back of jerseys and individual pant customization. Players complained this year that white pants worn by some teams are see-through enough to show tucked-in jersey tops.

Regional sports networks Manfred said a national steaming package of local television broadcasts is a future possibility.

"I could see a situation where we grow into a 30-club model. It might start on the digital side, where you have 14 or 15 clubs, and, you start with a digital product there as your first alternative," he said.

"I was in Sun Valley last week and I did the whole speed-dating thing with everybody who's ever streamed anything. When you talk to people in the streaming business, they're not really interested in buying the state of Wisconsin and two counties in Michigan," Manfred added. "They want to be able to stream quite frankly, all over the U.S. and Canada but more broadly internationally. So I think those conversations are a product of owners saying, holy cow, the RSN business is really deteriorating. We know the future's going to be streaming."

What we're hearing from the streamers is they want a more national product, and we need to be responsive to what people want to buy."

MLB took over production of Arizona and San Diego local television broadcasts last year following the bankruptcy of Diamond Sports' Bally networks and said MLB will be available as an option for teams looking for new deals. He said Padres game are approaching 40,000 subscribers, which he called a good figure. □



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